

SB2085



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2085

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 110/8.9 new
225 ILCS 110/8.10 new
225 ILCS 110/8.11 new
225 ILCS 110/8.12 new

Amends the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act. Provides for licensure of audiology assistants, including qualifications for licensure, minimum requirements for audiology assistant programs, the scope of responsibility of audiology assistants, and requirements for supervision of audiology assistants.

LRB102 10419 SPS 15747 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and
5 Audiology Practice Act is amended by adding Sections 8.9,
6 8.10, 8.11, and 8.12 as follows:

7 (225 ILCS 110/8.9 new)

8 Sec. 8.9. Qualifications for licensure as an audiology
9 assistant. A person is qualified to be licensed as an
10 audiology assistant if that person has applied in writing or
11 electronically on forms prescribed by the Department, has paid
12 the required fees, and meets the following criteria:

13 (1) Is of good moral character. In determining moral
14 character, the Department may take into consideration any
15 felony conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere of
16 the applicant, but such a conviction or plea shall not
17 operate automatically as a complete bar to licensure.

18 (2) Is at least 18 years of age.

19 (3) Has received: (A) an associate degree from an
20 audiology assistant program that has been approved by the
21 Department and that meets the minimum requirements set
22 forth in Section 8.10; (B) a bachelor's degree and has
23 completed course work from an accredited college or

1 university that meets the minimum requirements set forth
2 in Section 8.10; (C) certification as an assistant through
3 the American Speech Language Hearing Association; or (D) a
4 license from the State of Illinois as a hearing instrument
5 dispenser.

6 (225 ILCS 110/8.10 new)

7 Sec. 8.10. Minimum requirements for audiology assistant
8 programs.

9 (a) An applicant for licensure as an audiology assistant
10 with an associate's degree must have earned 60 semester credit
11 hours in a program of study that includes general education
12 and the specific knowledge and skills for an audiology
13 assistant. The curriculum of an audiology assistant program
14 must include the following content, as further provided by
15 rule adopted by the Department:

16 (1) Three semester hours of anatomy and physiology of
17 the hearing mechanism, 3 semester hours of hearing
18 science, 3 semester hours of introduction to audiology,
19 and 3 semester hours of aural rehabilitation from an
20 accredited institution of higher education that is
21 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or that
22 meets the U.S. Department of Education equivalency as
23 determined through a National Association of Credential
24 Evaluation Services member.

25 (2) Completion of at least 100 hours of supervised

1 field work experiences supervised by a licensed
2 audiologist at least 50% of the time when the student is
3 engaged in contact with the patient or client. An
4 applicant must obtain written verification demonstrating
5 successful completion of the required field work
6 experience, including a description of the setting in
7 which the training was received and an assessment of the
8 student's technical proficiency.

9 (b) An applicant for licensure as an audiology assistant
10 who holds certification through the American Speech Language
11 Hearing Association must meet requirements set forth by that
12 Association. Certification with the American Speech Language
13 Hearing Association must be issued and in good standing at the
14 time of application for an audiology assistant license.

15 (c) The Department may adopt rules that change the
16 curriculum requirements of subsection (a) in order to reflect
17 the guidelines for audiology assistant programs recommended by
18 the American Speech Language Hearing Association.

19 (d) Any applicant for licensure as an audiology assistant
20 who applies to the Department before the effective date of
21 this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly or any
22 person who holds a valid license as an audiology assistant on
23 the effective date of this amendatory Act shall not be
24 required to meet the new minimum requirements for an audiology
25 assistant program under subsection (a) of this Section.

1 (225 ILCS 110/8.11 new)

2 Sec. 8.11. Scope of responsibility of audiology
3 assistants.

4 (a) The scope of responsibility of audiology assistants is
5 limited to supplementing the role of an audiologist in
6 implementing the treatment program established by the
7 audiologist. The functions and duties of an audiology
8 assistant are:

9 (1) scheduling patients;

10 (2) packaging and mailing earmold orders, device
11 repairs, and manufacturer and lab returns;

12 (3) maintaining inventories of supplies and checking
13 function of equipment;

14 (4) performing checks on hearing aids and other
15 amplification devices;

16 (5) performing troubleshooting and minor repairs to
17 hearing aids, earmolds, and other amplification devices;

18 (6) cleaning hearing aids and other amplification
19 devices;

20 (7) performing electroacoustic analysis of hearing
21 aids and other amplification devices;

22 (8) instructing patients in proper use and care of
23 hearing aids and other amplification devices;

24 (9) demonstrating alerting and assistive listening
25 devices;

26 (10) instructing patients in proper ear hygiene;

- 1 (11) assisting audiologists in treatment programs;
- 2 (12) assisting audiologists with setup and technical
- 3 tasks;
- 4 (13) preparing materials for ear impressions;
- 5 (14) maintaining and restocking test and treatment
- 6 rooms;
- 7 (15) performing equipment maintenance and biological
- 8 checks;
- 9 (16) conducting hearing and tympanometric screening on
- 10 older children and adults (without interpretation);
- 11 (17) conducting otoacoustic emission screening;
- 12 (18) performing nondiagnostic otoscopy;
- 13 (19) performing pure-tone audiologic reassessment on
- 14 established patients;
- 15 (20) preparing the patient for VNG/ENG or evoked
- 16 testing;
- 17 (21) assisting audiologists in hearing testing of
- 18 pediatric patients;
- 19 (22) performing pure-tone hearing screening and
- 20 universal newborn hearing screening tests;
- 21 (23) performing infection control duties within the
- 22 clinic or service;
- 23 (24) assisting patients in completing case history or
- 24 other relevant forms;
- 25 (25) interacting with hearing instrument manufacturers
- 26 and suppliers regarding status of orders and repairs;

1 (26) acting as an interpreter for non-English speaking
2 and American Sign Language patients or clients and their
3 family members when competent to do so; and

4 (27) assisting with audiology research projects,
5 in-service training, and family or community education.

6 (b) An audiology assistant may not:

7 (1) determine case selection or evaluation protocols;

8 (2) interpret observations or data into diagnostic
9 statements of clinical management strategies or
10 procedures;

11 (3) participate in team or case conferences or on any
12 interdisciplinary team without the presence of the
13 supervising audiologist or an audiologist designated by
14 the supervising audiologist;

15 (4) write, develop, or modify a patient's
16 individualized treatment plan;

17 (5) assist with patients without following the
18 treatment plan prepared by the audiologist or without
19 proper supervision;

20 (6) compose or sign any formal documents (such as
21 treatment plans, reimbursement forms, or reports);
22 progress notes written by audiology assistants may be
23 reviewed and co-signed by the supervising audiologist,
24 subject to local facility policy;

25 (7) transmit or disclose clinical information, either
26 orally or in writing, to anyone, including the patient,

1 without the approval of the supervising audiologist;

2 (8) select patients for treatment services or
3 discharge patients from treatment services;

4 (9) counsel or consult with the patient, family, or
5 others regarding the patient status or service or make
6 referrals for additional services; and

7 (10) refer to themselves either orally or in writing
8 with a title other than one determined by the supervising
9 audiologist.

10 (225 ILCS 110/8.12 new)

11 Sec. 8.12. Supervision of audiology assistants.

12 (a) In this Section, "direct supervision" means in-view
13 observation and guidance by an audiologist while an assigned
14 activity is performed by the audiology assistant.

15 (b) An audiology assistant shall practice only under the
16 supervision of an audiologist who has at least 2 years
17 experience in addition to the supervised professional
18 experience required under paragraph (f) of Section 8 of this
19 Act. An audiologist who supervises an audiology assistant must
20 have completed at least 2 clock hours of training in
21 supervision related to audiology. The Department shall adopt
22 rules describing the supervision training requirements. The
23 rules may allow an audiologist to apply to the Board for an
24 exemption from this training requirement based upon prior
25 supervisory experience.

1 (c) An audiology assistant must be under the direct
2 supervision of an audiologist at least 30% of the audiology
3 assistant's actual patient or client contact time per patient
4 or client during the first 90 days of initial employment as an
5 audiology assistant. Thereafter, an audiology assistant must
6 be under the direct supervision of an audiologist at least 20%
7 of the audiology assistant's actual patient or client contact
8 time per patient or client. Supervision of an audiology
9 assistant beyond the minimum requirements of this subsection
10 may be imposed at the discretion of the supervising
11 audiologist. A supervising audiologist must be available to
12 communicate with an audiology assistant whenever the assistant
13 is in contact with a patient or client.

14 (d) An audiologist who supervises an audiology assistant
15 must document direct supervision activities. At a minimum,
16 supervision documentation must provide: (1) information
17 regarding the quality of the audiology assistant's performance
18 of assigned duties; and (2) verification that clinical
19 activity is limited to duties specified in Section 8.11.

20 (e) A full-time audiologist may supervise no more than 2
21 audiology assistants. An audiologist who does not work
22 full-time may supervise no more than one audiology assistant.